



MITT ROMNEY
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Old Refrigerator Causes Weymouth Church Blaze

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan and Weymouth Fire Chief Robert Leary announced the conclusion of the joint investigation into Thursday night's fire at the Sacred Heart Church in Weymouth. Chief Leary said, "The cause was a malfunction in an old refrigerator in the basement of the church."

Chief Leary added, "A fire in a house of worship is always devastating. I want to reassure the parishioners and the entire Weymouth community that this was an accidental fire and there is absolutely no reason to suspect foul play."

In addition, the chief expressed his sincere thanks to all 12 communities that provided mutual aid assistance during the fire. He said: "Without their support, the extent of damage would have been even more devastating. Firefighters are always there to assist one another; for that I am eternally grateful."

The fire was jointly investigated by the Weymouth Fire Department, Weymouth Police Department, State Police investigators assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal, and the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (BATF). The BATF assists with all major houses of worship fire investigations.

Coan said, "I want to applaud the seamless nature of the joint investigation. The successful team approach moved swiftly and methodically to determine the cause of the fire." He added, "In the past year I have been to several devastating fires in houses of worship in Massachusetts, and hope investigators can provide some small comfort by answering the question 'how' so the congregation can start to heal."

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